

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a parallel resistance heating cable, the cable comprising a heating element connected between at least two longitudinally extending conductors, the method comprising [[:]]:

applying a current along at least one of said conductors, such that ~~the~~ a surface temperature of the conductor is raised by ohmic heating to at least substantially ~~the~~ a thermal transition point that allows plastic flow of the heating element.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a current is applied along each of said conductors so as to raise ~~the~~ a surface temperature of each conductor to at least substantially the thermal transition point of the heating element.

3 (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 2, the method comprising connecting said conductors in series prior to applying said current.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein said current is applied so as to elevate ~~the~~ a surface of ~~the~~ at least one of said conductor to a temperature greater than the thermal transition point of the heating element.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said current is applied for a time period of between 0.1 and 60 seconds.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the method~~ further comprises the step of comprising:
allowing the cable to cool to substantially ambient temperature after the application of said current.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, further comprising: ~~the step of~~
monitoring ~~the~~ an integrity of ~~the~~ a bond between the conductors and the heating element by determining ~~the~~ a resistance between the conductors when at least two different voltages are applied across the conductors.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, ~~the method~~ further comprising: ~~the step of~~
determining that ~~the~~ a performance of the heating cable is less than optimum.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein said method ~~steps are~~ is performed whilst the heating cable is located in situ in a heating arrangement.

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10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein said current is applied to heat the at least one of said conductor during the manufacture of the heating cable.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein the heating element comprises a semiconductor.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein the heating element comprises a polymeric matrix.

13. (Currently Amended) A heating cable ~~processed by the method as~~ claimed in ~~any one of the above claims~~ comprising:

first and second conductors; and

a heating element connected between the first and second conductors,

wherein at least one of the first and second conductors is configured to receive a current, such that a surface temperature of the at least one of the first and second conductors is raised by ohmic heating to at least substantially a thermal transition point that allows plastic flow of the heating element.

14-15. (Cancelled)